

September 22, 2015

Dr. Kildal:

I want to reinforce recent conversations that we've had in various venues about the need for Hartnell to continue its work in developing institution-set standards for student achievement. Please feel free to send this email to deans and faculty.

You may recollect that last year for the first time a task group convened, discussed methodology, and vetted standards for several measures. These standards were subsequently approved through the participatory governance process and by the Board of Trustees. This was the start of what must now become an ongoing and more integrative endeavor.
(<http://www.hartnell.edu/institutional-effectiveness-measures>)

Given the most recently revised accreditation standards, it is critically important that conversations at the program level are held concerning institution-set standards. The ACCJC expects that institutions will develop institution-set standards for each program, which would entail the involvement of faculty, deans and others in the governance process.

More specifically, a recent letter from the ACCJC contains the requirement that Hartnell report institution-set standards for job placement for each CTE program that demonstrated 10 or more completers for the 2012-13 year. (We had been asked to provide this information last year, but only had time to work through our initial set of standards.) A similar letter was received by other community colleges. Particularly challenging is the date by which we must report these standards, along with job placement rates (which we also do not currently have): October 15.

Therefore, starting immediately for the specific CTE programs impacted, and starting shortly for other programs, it is essential that conversations at the program level are held with and among faculty, and that we obtain any relevant information and/or data that may help us in establishing these institution-set standards. For example, it could be helpful if faculty are aware of and can obtain information from colleagues at other community colleges who have addressed this issue.

Thanks for your anticipated assistance in encouraging this dialogue.